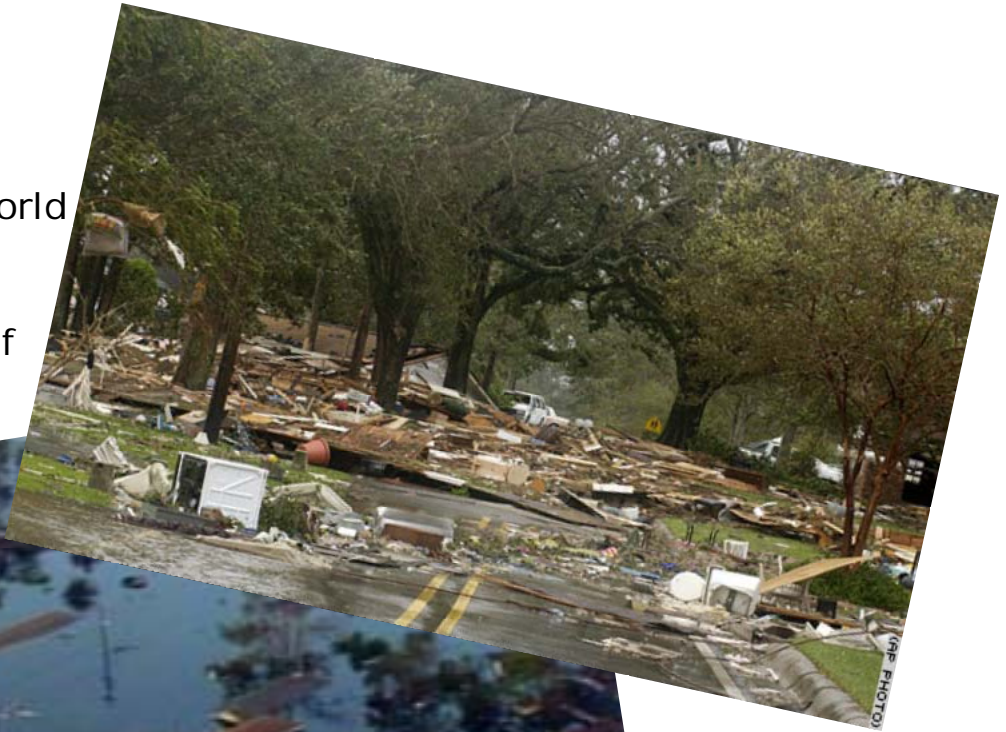




### Hurricane Katrina Leaves Her Mark on the Gulf Coast

Early pictures of the devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. People from around the world continue to offer support. VANTHCS sent staff and other resources to the Gulf Coast, and Dallas VAEA is



accepting financial contributions as well as non-perishable items, such as clothes, diapers, and personal toiletries. Contributions can also be made through CFC as well as American Red Cross and Salvation Army.





# VANTHCS Participates in Relief Efforts

Seventeen VA medical centers designated as Federal Coordinating Centers by the National Disaster Medical System responded quickly and compassionately to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Dallas VAMC received and triaged patients soon after evacuation flights began. Our decontamination team was first on the scene and coordinated off loading 222 patients from five airplanes at Carswell Field Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth (pictures below courtesy of Fort Worth Fire Department). Upon arrival at the shelters, triage teams began identifying veterans and transporting them to Dallas VAMC for evaluation and treatment... At this writing, **647 veteran evacuees have been treated with 14 admissions**. VA staff will continue working with area shelters as long as needed.

*excerpts from 9/15/05 HEY VA! HAVE YOU HEARD?*

## From the Director

I am very proud of our efforts to help those who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. VANTHCS was a first responder when air lifts began out of New Orleans to Carswell Field at JRB in Fort Worth. Our employees were at triage stations at Reunion Arena and Dallas Convention Center to identify veterans and get them to the medical center. The evacuees needed emergency care; others were trying to find family members; and all had been through a terrible ordeal traveling to Dallas by buses. Mental health services were also provided. My sincere gratitude to all employees who helped on these crisis teams as well as those who stayed behind to provide support from the medical center.



Venture is  
published by  
VANTHCS

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VANTHCS dedicates this issue to everyone affected by Hurricane Katrina



VA Secretary Nicholson took time out of his busy schedule to call Ms. Brown recently. The Secretary expressed his congratulations to her and VANTHCS staff for quick action during initial hours of evacuation.



From Captain John McCormack, Commanding Officer, NAS JRB, to members of **Dallas VAMC Patient Reception Team**, who assisted city and county emergency responders unload five planes with 222 patients air lifted from the devastated Gulf Coast region to Carswell Field at the Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth during the aftermath of Katrina: "My congrats to your entire team.... You were extremely professional, and made the process look like you've been doing it every day. Well done!"



*Excerpts from a Paul Harvey radio interview September 9:*

"So, would you like to hear about a Federal agency that *did* do its job?.....Ok, the VA moved 1,200 Vets, staff and family out of the hospitals in the Gulf and a good thing. The VA in Gulfport, obliterated- the one in New Orleans - useless, but the response team was in place *well* in advance. No Excuses, None needed."

New Orleans natives Richard Harris and Henry Clark escaped before Hurricane Katrina hit land. They are currently staying in Arlington with family members. Both veterans, they wasted no time finding the nearest VA Medical Center for medication refills and other health care needs. Between appointments last week, the two sat down to discuss their situation. They are pleased with the care they've received at Dallas VAMC and complimented the staff on their helpfulness and courtesy.



**As we continue to pray  
for our Gulf Coast neighbors,  
Texas braces for Hurricane Rita...**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Commemorating 75 years of service



**Dallas VAMC observed the Presidential Proclamation Sept. 16 to remember the victims of Hurricane Katrina in prayer.**

While Dallas VAMC has treated over 600 evacuee patients as of this writing, about 70 employees have checked in from New Orleans VAMC, and many of them participated in the ceremony, co-leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The chaplain's prayer was powerful, and one employee, an ordained deacon in his church, read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Everyone joined to sing Amazing Grace as well as observe a moment of silence for those along the Gulf Coast who have suffered so much. The ceremony was uplifting and ended with words of encouragement and some Texas hospitality! *(photos courtesy of Nancy Gray, Medical Media)*



Dr. Gail Bentley (right) meets employees displaced by the hurricane



Lots of support as Dallas VAMC employees gathered for the ceremony



Ms. Brown is from Louisiana

The brief ceremony was uplifting to both Dallas and New Orleans employees



After the noon ceremony, many stayed to meet and greet our New Orleans employees



Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
4500 South Lancaster Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75216

Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic  
300 West Rosedale  
Fort Worth, TX 76104

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center  
1201 East Ninth St.  
Bonham, TX 75418